

REMARKS

In the previous Amendment filed by Applicant it was argued that independent Claim 1 was patentable as a result of its requirement that a control electrode of a reset transistor included in a pixel is connected to an output line and is controlled so as to be turned on and off by changing a signal level of the output line. Further in this regard, it was asserted that the cited Kim patent does not embody a disclosure of the above-characterized requirements in Claim 1.

In the above-identified Office Action, however, Claim 1 was deemed to be broader than the above characterization thereof, on the grounds that “the claim language does not specifically require that a control electrode of the reset transistor be supplied with a control signal, which controls an on/off of the reset transistor and wherein the control signal is directly connected to the pixel output line”. In response, by means of the foregoing Amendment independent Claim 1 has been revised to require:

“an output line to which the signal from the read transistor is read out, said output line being connected to a control electrode area of the reset transistor so that said control electrode area is supplied with a signal level of said output line, wherein the reset transistor is controlled to be turned on and off by changes in the signal level of said output line.”

Accordingly, it is seen that Claim 1 now requires a solid-state image pickup apparatus having a pixel including a photoelectric conversion unit, a read transistor for reading a signal from the photoelectric conversion unit, and a reset transistor for resetting an input portion of the read transistor. That claim also requires an output line for reading out a signal from the read transistor, which line is connected to a control electrode area of the reset transistor so that the control electrode area is supplied with a

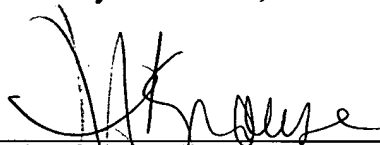
signal level of the output line to control on and off states of the reset transistor in accordance with changes in the supplied signal level (e.g., 5 and 8 in Fig. 1).

As acknowledged by the Office Action, the above-characterized requirements of Claim 1 are not disclosed by the cited Kim patent. Specifically, as is apparent from Fig. 4 thereof, the Kim reference fails to disclose that a reset transistor M1 and an output line "data-out" are arranged so that a signal level of the output line is supplied to a control electrode area of the reset transistor.

For these reasons it is believed that Claim 1 and its dependent claims are now allowable.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

John A. Krause

Registration No. 24,613

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200